IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~preventing or~~ attenuating development of atherosclerosis comprising administering molsidomine or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts daily, for a period of at least six months, in the form of a sustained-release solid oral composition containing between 14 and 24 mg of molsidomine effective over 24 hours.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sustained release oral composition effective over 24 hours has an *in vitro* dissolution rate, measured spectrophotometrically at 286 or 311 nm by the method described in the European Pharmacopoeia, 3rd edition (or USP XXIV), at 50 rpm, in 500 ml of a 0.1 N HCl medium, at 37°C, of:

- 15 to 25% of molsidomine released after 1 hour
- 20 to 35% of molsidomine released after 2 hours
- 50 to 65% of molsidomine released after 6 hours
- 75 to 95% of molsidomine released after 12 hours
- >85% of molsidomine released after 18 hours
- >90% of molsidomine released after 24 hours,

the plasma peak of molsidomine obtained *in vivo* occurring 2.5 to 5 hours following the administration of said form, and having a value of between 25 and 40 ng/ml of plasma.

Claims 3-5 (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said plasma peak of molsidomine obtained *in vivo* occurs 3 to 4 hours following the administration of said form.

Claims 7-8 (canceled).

9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said solid oral composition contains 16 mg of molsidomine per dosage unit intended for daily administration.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said solid oral composition is administered to a patient suffering from angina pectoris.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said solid oral composition is administered to a patient suffering from angina pectoris.

Claim 12 (canceled).